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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
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R 191100Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0602

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIESTE 0044
E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: PCI ALLEGEDLY SEEKS ACCOMMODATION WITH
VENETO DC
1. SUMMARY: REGIONAL WEEKLY "7 GIORNI VENETO" IN
ITS FREBRUARY 17 ISSUE CLAIMS A SCOOP IN REPORTING
THAT THE PCI WILL STRETCH OUT BOTH HANDS TO THE DC
AT THE COMMUNISTS' FIRST-EVER REGIONAL CONGRESS IN
THE VENETO (MARCH 31-APRIL 3). EVIDENCE FOR THIS
IS A PRE-CONGRESS PCI POLICY DOCUMENT OBTAINED BY
THE WEEKLY WHICH PURPORTEDLY LAYS OUT VARIOUS PRO-
POSALS TO CLOSE THE IDEOLOGICAL GAP WITH THE DC.
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE CONGRESS WILL
MEASURE UP TO THE MAGAZINE'S EXPECTATION OF THE

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"HISTORIC EVENT OF THE VENETO". BUT IT IS CLEAR
THAT THE COMMUNISTS' CLAIMS TO NATIONAL LEGITIMACY
WILL CONTINUE TO RING HOLLOW IF THEY CANNOT NEUTRA-
LIZE THE LAST DC BASTIONS OF THE VENETO AND THE FRIULI. END
SUMMARY.
2. ACCORDING TO THE WEEKLY, RINO SERRI, VENETO PCI REGIONAL
SECRETARY IS BEHIND THE EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS IN THE VENETO. IF SUCH AN ACCOMMODATION IS TO BE
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REACHED, PROBABLY ONLY AN EMILIAN PCI LEADER (SERRI) AND THE
VENETO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHOSE CREDENTIALS ARE ABOVE RE-
PROACH COULD BRING IT OFF. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE PCI WILL
ATTEMPT TO BRIDGE THE IDEOLOGICAL GAP TO THE DC BY CREATING
VARIOUS AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:
A. CALL FOR A UNITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE VENETO AT ALL
LEVELS BASED ON BROAD AGREEMENT AMONG ALL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES,

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PASSING OTHER WORDS FROM "CONFRONTO" TO ORGANIC PARTICI-
PATION OF THE PCI-- THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" IS NEVER
MENTIONED.
B. BESTOW IDEOLOGICAL ACCEPTANCE ON THE DC IN APPLAUDING THE
FIRST SIGNS OF COOPERATION IN THE VENETO AGRICULTURAL WORLD

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BETWEEN THE ALLEANZA CONTADINI AND THE FEDERMEZZADRI AS A
MEANS TO CLOSE THE HISTORIC GAP BETWEEN THE "ANTI-COMMUNIST
CATHOLICS" AND THE "ANTI-CLERICAL WORKERS MOVEMENT OF A
MARXIST PERSUASION" -- THE GOAL IS TO INVOLVE EVENTUALLY THE
"FEDERZAIONE DEI COLTIVATORI DIRETTI" -- AN ORGANIZATION
WITHOUT WHICH THE PCI COULD NEVER HOPE TO INFLUENCE RURAL VENETO.
C. ACCEPT THE SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES "EVERY STEEPLE A
FACTORY" CREATED BY THE DC THROUGHOUT THE VENETO AFTER THE
WAR (INEFFICIENT AS IT MAY BE) SINCE THE SITUATION IS NOT
"IRREMEDIABLE" AND INCIDENTALLY REPRESENTS MUCH OF THE BACK-
BONE OF THE DC VENETO.
D. REASSURE THE DC'S "DECISIVE" POPULAR AND MODERATE WINGS AS
TO PCI INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE THE IMPACT ON THE
PARTY BY THE DC LEFT -- "THE MOST ANTI OF THE ANTI-COMMU-
NISTS".
3. APPARENTLY, THE SOCIALISTS BARELY RATE A MENTION IN THE
DOCUMENT. THEY ARE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "RE-
CIPROCAL AUTONOMY OF THE TWO GREAT PARTIES OF THE LEFT" --
IN OTHER WORDS THE AUTONOMY IN UNITY PROPOSAL ALLEGEDLY TO
BE MADE TO THE DC.
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4. THE FOREGOING APPEAR TO BE VARIATIONS OF WELL-KNOWN PCI
THEMES. (WE ARE TRYING TO GET HOLD OF A COPY FOR A FIRST-
HAND LOOK AT IT.) BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR
SOME TIME (PARTICULARLY TO THE COMMUNISTS) THAT THE VENETO
AND THE FRIULI REMAIN AMONG THE GREATEST OBSTACLES TO PCI
NATIONAL AMBITIONS. IF THE PCI CAN REACH AN ACCOMMODATION
WITH THE DC IN THE LATTER'S LAST TWO BASTIONS, THE COMMU-
NISTS' CLAIMS TO NATIONAL LEGITIMACY AND A GOVERNMENT ROLE
ARE VIRTUALLY UNASSAILABLE. BUOYED BY ITS PERFORMANCE IN
THE 1975 AND 1976 ELECTIONS, THE PCI MAY THINK THE TIME IS
RIPE TO MAKE A MAJOR BID IN THE NORTHEAST ZONE, HAVING CON-
CLUDED THAT A WEAKENED DC LOSING ITS GRIP ON THE VENETO AND
FRIULI MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO A DEAL NOW. MOEN.

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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**Secure:** OPEN
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**Subject:** PCI ALLEGEDLY SEEKS ACCOMMODATION WITH VENETO DC
**TAGS:** PINT, IT, PCI
**To:** ROME
**Type:** TE
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